

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 24 with the following amended paragraph.

Figs. 1-4 depict a vehicle 10 having an expansion portion 12 according to one embodiment of the present invention for providing an adjustable cargo area. While vehicle 10 may be any of a large variety of different types of vehicles having cargo areas, vehicle 10 is depicted and described herein as a pick-up truck. Vehicle 10 generally includes a body 14 mounted to a frame [[16]] (not shown) having wheels 18 connected thereto. Body 14 includes a cab 19 having a roof 20, a floor [[22]] (not shown), a first side 24, a second side 26, and a back end 28. Roof 20, the floor [[22]], and sides 24, 26 define an interior space 30. Since first side 24 is substantially identical to second side 26, only first side 24 will be described herein. First side 24 includes, in this embodiment, a first door 32 and a second door 34. Second door 34 includes a window 40 and defines, with roof 20, an edge 42 as will be further described below.

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 5, line 14 and ending on page 6, line 18 with the following amended paragraphs.

Expansion portion 12 includes a rear wall 56, side walls 58 [[, 60]], and a lower wall 62. Rear wall 56 includes an upper edge 64, a tailgate 66 and a bumper section 68. Of course, instead of tailgate 66, rear wall 58 may include a full or partial swinging gate, or any other type of door opening to the cargo area. In the depicted embodiment, side walls 58, 60 each include an outer panel 70 and an inner panel 72 having a substantially continuous upper edge 74.

As best shown in Fig. 1, when expansion portion 12 is in the retracted position, outer panels 70 of side walls 58 [[, 60]] form a substantially continuous surface with bed side walls 44, 46, respectively. Outer panels 70 engage side walls 44, 46 along rearward edges 52. Upper edge 64 of rear wall 56 is also substantially continuous with upper edge 50 of bed side walls 44, 46. When expansion portion 12 is in the retracted position, expansion portion 12, bed 36, and back end 28 of cab 19 define a first cargo area. As will be apparent from the following description, when expansion portion 12 is in the retracted position, both the length of vehicle 10 (referenced by the letter "A") and the defined cargo area are at minimum values.

Referring now to Fig. 2, when expansion portion 12 is moved to the extended position, inner panels 72 of side walls 58 [[, 60]] extend from bed side walls 44, 46 and lower wall 62 extends from bed floor 48. When expansion portion 12 is in the extended position, expansion portion 12, bed 36, and back end 28 of cab 19 define a second cargo area that is larger than the first cargo area. Moreover, the defined cargo area of vehicle 10 is at a maximum value, and the length of vehicle 10 is expanded to length "B." It should be understood, however, that expansion portion 12 may be configured such that its position relative to bed 19 is infinitely adjustable between the retracted position and the extended position.

In the embodiment shown, side walls 58 [[, 60]] are positioned between bed side walls 44, 46 when expansion portion 12 is in the retracted position. It should be understood, however, that side walls 58 [[, 60]] and bed side walls 44, 46 may be configured such that side walls 58 [[, 60]] are positioned within side walls 44, 46 or outside side walls 44, 46 when expansion portion 12 is in the retracted position in the manner taught U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/476,155 entitled "Apparatus for Configuring the Interior Space of a Vehicle," filed June 5, 2003 (hereinafter, "the Interior Space Application"), the entire disclosure of which is hereby expressly incorporated herein by reference. It should also be understood that lower wall 62 of expansion portion 12 and bed floor 48 may be configured such that lower wall 62 moves under, over, or within bed floor 48 as expansion portion 12 is moved between the retracted position and the extended position. Moreover, the engagement surfaces between bed 36 and expansion portion 12 when expansion portion 12 is in either the retracted position or the extended position may include components for forming a seal (such as those described in the Interior Space Application) to prevent leaks from the cargo area through the sides or bottom of bed 36.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 30 with the following paragraph.

In another embodiment, vehicle 10 may further include an auxiliary expansion portion 12' as shown in Figs. 3 and 4. Any of the expansion portion features described in the Interior Space Application may readily be incorporated into auxiliary expansion portion 12'. Auxiliary expansion portion 12' includes a rear wall 56', a pair of side walls 58' [[, 60']], a lower wall 62', and an upper wall 76. Each side wall 58' [[, 60']] is shown as including a window 78. In the embodiment shown, auxiliary expansion portion 12' is rigidly connected

to bed 36 and movably connected to cab 19. More particularly, when in the retracted position (Figs. 1 and 2), auxiliary expansion portion 12' is retracted substantially within cab 19, with rear wall 56' sealing against rear edge 42 of roof 20 and second doors 34 to define a first interior space of cab 19. Additionally, windows 78 of side walls 58' [[, 60']] are substantially aligned with windows 40 of second doors 34. When moved to the extended position (Figs. 3 and 4), auxiliary expansion portion 12', bed 26, and expansion portion 12, are spaced away from cab 19 to reveal upper wall 76, side walls 58' [[, 60']], and lower wall 62'. It should be understood that when auxiliary expansion portion 12' is in the extended position, portions of upper wall 76, side walls 58' [[, 60']], and lower wall 62' seal against surfaces of cab 19 to define a second interior space of cab 19, which is larger than the first interior space. Windows 78 of side walls 58'[[, 60']] are also exposed, thereby increasing the window area of cab 19. Additionally, the length of vehicle 10 is increased from length A (Fig. 1) to length C (Fig. 3). As shown in Fig. 4, the length of vehicle 10 (as well as the cargo area of bed 36) may be further increased to length D by moving expansion portion 12 to the extended position as described above.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 20, with the following amended paragraph.

As should be apparent from the figures, movement of auxiliary expansion portion 12' from the retracted position to the extended position also increases the wheelbase of vehicle 10 from wheelbase E shown in Figs. 1 and 2 to wheelbase F shown in Figs. 3 and 4. Accordingly, the frame [[16]] of vehicle 10 (as well as the drive train, and wiring and plumbing extending from the forward portion of vehicle 10 to the rearward portion of vehicle 10) should be configured to expand and retract.